

Statement by the Delegation of Lesotho

The delegation of Lesotho congratulates the current chair, Ambassador Gabriel Duque

On his election as chairman of these assemblies of WIPO. We believe his dedication and professionalism displayed so far, will translate into achievement of concrete solutions. We commend the outgoing chair, Ambassador Karimo for the excellent output of work during her tenure of office. We congratulate the Director General of the world intellectual property, Mr. Francis Gurry and his team for having maintained a healthy financial climate for the organization. We also thank him for his present vision for this organization as reflected in his report to the assemblies. We also thank him and his team for having made, as usual excellent preparations for this august meeting and presentation of comprehensive documents.

The delegation of Lesotho fully supports the statements of the delegations of Nigeria on behalf of the African group, that made by Benin on behalf of the LCD'S.

We wish to particularly associate ourselves with the proposal raised by the Africa group in relation to establishment of external offices. In this regard, we specifically support the proposal that two of those offices be housed in Africa. Mr. Chairman, the economies in the Africa are advancing at a rapid pace and there is a need to raise the level of IP development. It is our earnest belief that the presence of these offices in Africa will greatly contribute to the development of IP in general and also advance IP awareness and administrative infrastructure of IP efficiently.

Lesotho supports the proposal for conversion of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Folklore (IGC), to a standing committee. Mr. Chairman, we need not overemphasize the fact that fourteen years has been a long time for discussions in this committee without any fruitful results. We believe that the time is opportune to employ a different strategy that will ultimately lead to a legally binding international instrument for the protection of TK and TCEs. My delegation puts this issue high on the agenda and call for them to be given the priority they deserve, Africa is endowed with a plethora of TK. and TCEs. There is a need for a legal intervention to curb the misappropriation of these valuable assets.

Mr. Chairman we have taken cognizance of the developments regarding the Design law treaty and we, at this stage need to make further consultations.

Lesotho has benefitted and is continuing to benefit from WIPO'S technical assistance and we are indeed grateful for that. We do urge WIPO to further assist Lesotho with the establishment of Technology Transfer centers. The centers will indeed close the knowledge gap and encourage creativity.



Lesotho has benefitted from the cooperation between WIPO/ARIPO and the Africa University. We have beneficiaries of the Master's program in IP offered at the Africa University and this has created a mass of IP graduates. The WIPO academy has also through its cooperation with advanced IP offices organized training at these offices for our people and we are very grateful to all the players in this regard. With the assistance of WIPO we have participated in various workshops on building respect for IP. These workshops are greatly appreciated as they capacitate law and enforcement officers in dealing with cases of IP contravention

Lesotho has received tremendous support regarding the ongoing deployment and implementation IPAS. WIPO send a mission to Lesotho to monitor the progress made so far. Lesotho also participated at the invitation of WIPO, in a Regional seminar on the operations of IPAS in Namibia.

In conclusion, we reaffirm Lesotho's support to Director General of WIPO and his staff in the furtherance of WIPO'S objectives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gawana", located in the bottom right corner of the page.